

# **Task Force on Wildland-Urban Interface Standards**

## **Minutes from Meeting April 2, 2008**

### **Helena**

#### **Present:**

Harold Blattie	Montana Association of Counties
Pat Cross	Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Tim Davis	Montana Smart Growth Coalition
Jerry Grebenc	Department of Commerce
Glenn Oppel	Montana Association of Realtors

Facilitator: John Moore

The meeting convened at 10:05 a.m.

#### **By consensus, the group reached these decisions:**

1. Agreed to use road and street standards from Model Subdivision Regulations (Department of Commerce) as reference for WUI Standards. Once the model standards are complete, DNRC will attach as an addendum to the WUI Standards.
2. Agreed to make these revisions to the draft WUI Standards and Best Practices.
  - a. remove references in Standards to property-owner associations and covenants
  - b. transfer the information about property-owner associations and covenants to Best Practices, with attention to three areas:
    1. best practices for subdivision regulation
    2. best practices for zoning
    3. best practices for property owners' responsibilities
  - c. sideline information in Standards about building construction
  - d. gather the information about building construction for later discussion, deciding what areas should be deferred to Department of Labor and Industry
  - e. match up definitions from three sources:
    1. draft Fire Overlay District in WUI Standards
    2. draft Glossary in WUI Standards
    3. draft Definitions from Department of Commerce Model Subdivision Regulations
3. Assigned tasks, responsible parties, and deadlines for revisions to the document.

<u><b>Activity</b></u>	<u><b>Responsible</b></u>	<u><b>Deadline</b></u>
minutes	John Moore	4/5/08

---

revisions a., b., c., d.	Jerry Grebenc Tim Davis	4/15/08
<hr/>		
revision e.	Pat Cross	4/30/08
<hr/>		
distribute revised Standards and Best Practices for review before next meeting	Pat Cross	4/30/08

4. **Scheduled the task force's next meeting**

May 19, 2008, 10 a.m., Yellowstone Room, Metcalf Building, Helena  
agenda items

- review and comment on revisions
- review and comment on best practices
- ensure that property-owner responsibilities are clear in Standards
- decide on the next steps in this process, with an eye to these revised target dates:
  - draft administrative rules for adoption by reference 6/15/08
  - publish proposal notice for rules 7/30/08

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

**Discussion Summary** – these are points brought up during the meeting

***Road and street standards***

- Department of Commerce is working on Model Subdivision Regulations (Subregs), including road and street standards  
these were discussed at MACRS  
Commerce has put them out for comment
- WUI Standards have road and street information, too  
we need to have one set of standards  
can we adopt Subreg standards by reference?  
Pat Cross will distribute the Subreg draft to participants and fire districts  
we'll let the Subreg process continue  
once they're done, we can adopt them by reference and include them as an addendum to the WUI Standards

***Revising draft information in WUI Standards***

- to start, in the "Fire Overlay District" section, we need to be clear what belongs in subdivision regulations and what belongs in zoning standards
- edit out information on construction – that should be DLI's area  
anything within the walls, anything that's part of a structure —> DLI
- in looking at "fuel standards," if mitigation falls to property-owner associations, then enforcement falls to county attorneys. how many county attorneys are going to want to take that on?
- we need to be clear on the division between Subreg and zoning standards; take out information related to covenants

- wait, we're saying "property owners," not "covenants"
- yes, but look at the information on "model covenants"
- fire districts are party to covenants – if they don't want to go along, are they effectively denying a proposed subdivision?
- go back to SB51 – it talks about "best practices." maybe that's the place to put information on model covenants
- so really, a lot of the information should be split into three areas of best practice: subdivision regulations, zoning, and covenants
  - let's call the last one "property owner responsibilities" instead
- rather than go through this draft page-by-page, we need to have someone do a first sweep through it and separate the information into the three best-practice areas, then bring it back to the group
- we need to match up definitions, too, between "fire district overlay" and "glossary"
- definitions are a big part of Commerce's draft Subregs, too – let's try to match up there, as well
- it would be great to dovetail these types of documents state-wide; it would clear up a lot of confusion

### ***Assigning Tasks and Deadlines***

- where to from here?
- Jerry and Tim will take on most of the proposed edits
- Pat will work on matching up definitions
- let's get something out for review before the next meeting

### ***Next Meeting***

- what's our timeline?
- we need to revise our timelines, since we're doing more editing
- goal – have the draft document done by 6/15/08
- goal – publish the proposal notice for adoption by reference by 7/30/08